

**INVESTIGATION OF, AND RELEASE OF INFORMATION  
CONCERNING, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE, INCLUDING THE  
ZIKA VIRUS AND OTHER HIGH CONSEQUENCE  
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

**CHAPTER 1087**

H.B. No. 3576

**AN ACT**

**relating to the investigation of, and release of information concerning, communicable disease, including the Zika virus and other high consequence communicable diseases.**

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 81.046(c), Health and Safety Code, as amended by Chapters 789 (H.B. 2646) and 1278 (S.B. 1574), Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(c) Medical or epidemiological information, including information linking a person who is exposed to a person with a communicable disease, may be released:

(1) for statistical purposes if released in a manner that prevents the identification of any person;

(2) with the consent of each person identified in the information;

(3) to medical personnel treating the individual, appropriate state agencies in this state or another state, a health authority or local health department in this state or another state, or federal, county, or district courts to comply with this chapter and related rules relating to the control and treatment of communicable diseases and health conditions or under another state or federal law that expressly authorizes the disclosure of this information;

(4) to appropriate federal agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [~~of the United States Public Health Service~~], but, *except as provided under Subsection (c-3)*, the information must be limited to the name, address, sex, race, and occupation of the patient, the date of disease onset, the probable source of infection, and other requested information relating to the case or suspected case of a communicable disease or health condition;

(5) to medical personnel to the extent necessary in a medical emergency to protect the health or life of the person identified in the information; ~~or~~

(6) to a designated infection control officer;

(7) ~~[(6)]~~ to governmental entities that provide first responders who may respond to a situation involving a potential communicable disease of concern and need the information to properly respond to the situation; or

(8) ~~[(7)]~~ to a local health department or health authority for a designated monitoring period based on the potential risk for developing symptoms of a communicable disease of concern.

SECTION 2. Section 81.046, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c-3) to read as follows:

*(c-3) The following medical or epidemiological information relating to a person who has or is suspected of having a present or potential health condition resulting from exposure to a high consequence communicable disease as defined by the department, including the Zika virus, may be released to an appropriate federal agency:*

*(1) the name, address, sex, race, and occupation of the person;*

*(2) the date of the onset of the health condition;*

*(3) the probable source of infection or exposure; and*

*(4) other requested information relating to the case or suspected case of the infection.*

SECTION 3. Sections 81.061(a) and (c), Health and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The department shall investigate the causes *and effects* of communicable disease and methods of prevention.

(c) The department may investigate the existence of communicable disease in the state to determine the nature and extent of the disease *and potential effects on the health of individuals* and to formulate and evaluate the control measures used to protect the public health. A person shall provide records and other information to the department on request according to the department's written instructions.

SECTION 4. To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails over another Act of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted codes.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

Passed by the House on May 12, 2017: Yeas 139, Nays 3, 1 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3576 on May 26, 2017: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2017: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Approved June 15, 2017.

Effective September 1, 2017.

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**INSTRUCTION IN CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION  
PROVIDED BY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, INCLUDING  
INSTRUCTION IN TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS,  
CYBERSECURITY, AND COMPUTER CODING, AND TO  
CONSIDERATION OF COMPLETED PRACTICUMS AND  
INTERNSHIPS IN SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS**

**CHAPTER 1088**

H.B. No. 3593

**AN ACT**

**relating to instruction in career and technology education provided by public schools, including instruction in technology applications, cybersecurity, and computer coding, and to consideration of completed practicums and internships in school accountability ratings.**

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (f) and (g-2) and adding Subsection (g-3) to read as follows:

(f) A school district may offer courses for local credit in addition to those in the required curriculum. The State Board of Education shall:

(1) be flexible in approving a course for credit for high school graduation under this subsection; *and*

(2) *approve courses in cybersecurity for credit for high school graduation under this subsection.*

(g-2) Each school district shall annually report to the agency the names of the courses, programs, institutions of higher education, and internships in which the district's students have enrolled under Subsection (g-1) *and the names of the courses and institutions of higher education in which the district's students have enrolled under Subsection (g-3).* The agency shall make available information provided under this subsection to other districts.

(g-3) *A district may also offer a course in cybersecurity that is approved by the board of trustees for credit without obtaining State Board of Education approval if the district*